

Fairfax County's SWM system must handle an additional 81,000 to 195,000 tons per year of MSW recyclables (excluding yard waste and special wastes) by 2025.

The county projects that the current MSW recycling system (excluding yard waste and special wastes) must handle an additional 81,000 to 195,000 tons per year by 2025. Therefore, the existing MSW collection system (municipal and private) will have to expand, by adding collection vehicles and labor, to meet the increased recycling quantities.

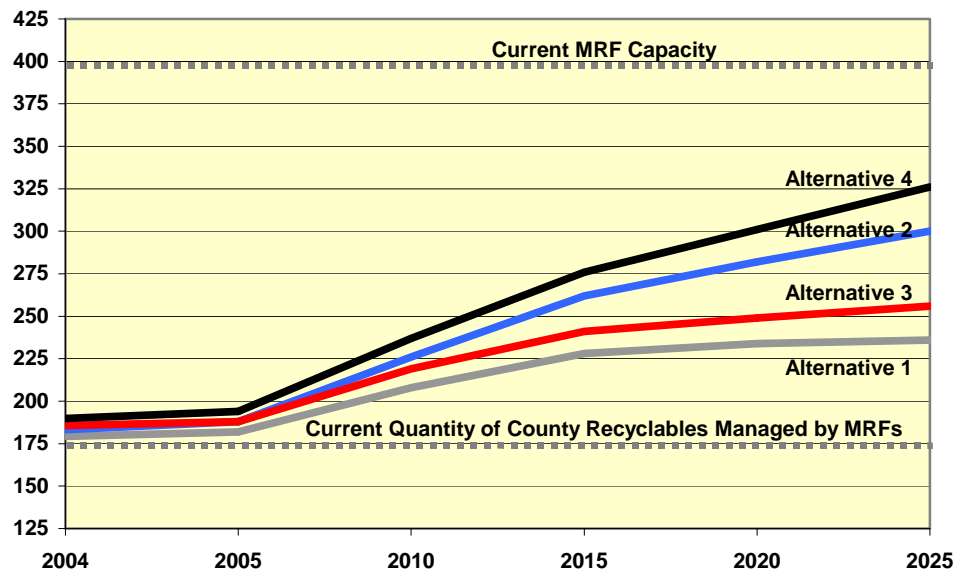
The projected increase in recycling quantities over the SWMP planning period may also impact the MRFs operating in the county. Table 6-7 and Figure 6-2 show the projected quantities of county MSW recyclables (i.e., paper and commingled recyclables) managed by county MRFs over the SWMP planning period. **(Note that these projections assume the continuation of the county's current management practices and conditions.)**

Table 6-7. Projections of MSW Recyclables Managed by MRFs in Fairfax County 2004–2025 (in thousands of tons)

Year	MSW Recycled							
	Alternative 1		Alternative 2		Alternative 3		Alternative 4	
	Paper	Commingled ^a	Paper	Commingled ^a	Paper	Commingled ^a	Paper	Commingled ^a
2004	151	26	153	26	150	25	152	26
2005	156	26	161	27	161	27	166	28
2010	178	30	193	33	187	32	203	34
2015	195	33	224	38	206	35	236	40
2020	200	34	241	41	213	36	257	44
2025	202	34	257	43	219	37	279	47

^a Commingled recyclables include glass, plastic and commingled bottles and cans.

Figure 6-2. Projections of MSW Recyclables Managed by MRFs in Fairfax County 2004–2025 (in thousands of tons)



Sufficient MRF capacity exists in Fairfax County over the SWMP planning period, assuming the continuation of the county's current management practices and conditions.

The current capacity of paper and commingled recycling processing at county MRFs is approximately 399,000 tons per year; the capacity for paper recyclables is 295,000 tons per year and for commingled recyclables is 104,000 tons per year. Therefore, sufficient MRF capacity exists in Fairfax County over the SWMP planning period for all four MSW alternatives, *assuming the continuation of the county's current management practices and conditions*. An increase in recycling resulting from planned SWMP actions may require expansion of MRF capacity during the next 20 years.

SWMP Actions

Table 6-8 shows Fairfax County's SWMP actions for MSW recycling. The county selected SWMP actions based on their alignment with the SWMP objectives (in Chapter 4) and their ability to close the gaps between the county's current SWM system and that required in the future. These SWMP actions are discussed in more detail in Chapter 11.

Table 6-8. Fairfax County MSW Recycling SWMP Actions

MSW Recycling SWMP Actions
Promote public/private recycling programs
Improve public outreach and education to promote recycling
Increase business recycling by reducing commercial recycling thresholds
Expand curbside recyclables collected to include mixed paper, plastic bottles, and cardboard
Revise regulations to enhance recycling, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand recyclables collected at government buildings • Encourage increased MSW recycling in county schools • Increase MSW recycling inspections
Address suitable recycling alternatives for multiunit buildings
Explore additional waste exchange agreements to increase recycling and/or recycling plans
Support expansion of the capacity of existing MRFs, if quantities of recyclable materials warrants expansion

Collection

Collection and transfer of solid waste serve to facilitate solid waste management strategies. Although not actually in the hierarchy, collection and transfer activities are necessary to ensure that Fairfax County can implement the objectives of the solid waste management system.

Fairfax County DSWCR provides collection service to approximately 41,000 homes, about 11 percent of the county.

Residential Collection by the County

The Fairfax County DSWCR currently (2004) provides collection service to approximately 41,000 homes, about 11 percent of the county. Revenue is derived from the refuse collection fee charged to customers.



The DSWCR offers trash pickup once a week and contracts recycling services within sanitary districts to private firms. These contractors also manage the sale of all recyclables collected by the county (CARs, DOCs, and the sanitary district routes). They deliver all recyclables to MRFs under contract to the county, and profits generated from the sale of the recyclables are split with the county. This revenue partially offsets program expenditure requirements.

Special Collection (Community Benefit) Programs Paid from the General Fund

Fairfax County DSWCR currently operates four programs paid for out of the county's General Fund. These programs are considered to be community benefit programs since they provide for the collection of refuse that presents a hazard to the health, safety, and welfare of county citizens. The four programs are:

- *Health Department Referral Program* - provides removal of refuse from properties at the request of the county Health Department due to a potential hazard to county citizens.
- *Community Cleanup Program* - cleanup support services are provided to communities and civic organizations.
- *Court/Board Directed Cleanup Program* - executes requests by the Fairfax County Circuit Court or the Board of Supervisors for the removal of refuse from properties that are in violation of the county zoning ordinance
- *Evictions Program* - executes requests by the Sheriff's Department for the use of refuse collection equipment and personnel to dispose of materials left by evicted tenants.

The county sometimes collects revenue from these programs and uses the revenues to offset the overall cost to the General Fund. The Health Department Referral Program and the Court/Board Directed Cleanup Program may recover cleanup fees from property owners.

Residential Curbside Collection by Private Companies

In Fairfax County, private haulers and Fairfax County collect residential waste curbside. All private haulers are required to provide recycling pickup (curbside) along with trash service. Fairfax County code requires weekly collection of both trash and recyclables; some companies offer twice-weekly collection of trash. Private companies charge their customers various rates depending upon location, frequency of service, special collections and other factors.

Currently, 20 private haulers are licensed to provide residential trash and recycling collection in Fairfax County.



Currently (2004), 23 private haulers are licensed to provide residential trash and recycling collection in Fairfax County. The private hauling companies operate in the county with permits issued under Fairfax County Code, Section 109-4-1. While there are many private collection companies in the county, as a result of consolidations within the industry, one company currently serves about 70 percent of all county households. Of the remaining 30 percent of households, 11 percent are served by the county and 19 percent are served by the other 19 private companies.

Citizens' Disposal Facilities

Residents can take their trash directly to the citizens' disposal centers at the I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex.



Residents can also take their trash directly to citizens' disposal centers at the I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex. These facilities charge fees for disposal of trash and bulk loads on the basis of the number of bags (for smaller loads) or by weight (for larger loads). The county uses revenue from the operation of this program to fund the solid waste management program.

The I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex citizens' disposal facilities also accept white goods—small and large appliances and other scrap metal (lawn chairs, grills, metal framing, etc.). A small fee is charged for appliances that have to have Freon removed and for waste tires. Special wastes, including used oil, antifreeze, batteries, and other household hazardous wastes are accepted free of charge. (Recycling of special wastes is detailed in Chapter 9.)

Residents can take their recyclables directly to one of eight recycling DOCs.

Recycling Drop Off Centers (DOCs)

Residents can take their recyclables directly to one of eight recycling DOCs. They are located throughout the county and provide citizens with a convenient addition to curbside collection. For example, DOCs accept mixed paper (cardboard, junk mail, catalogs, magazines) and plastics. Recycling at DOCs is free to county residents.



Commercial Collection



Commercial solid waste collection (businesses, institutions, and multiunit dwellings) in Fairfax County is managed by building owners/operators who contract with private refuse and recyclables collection firms in the county. Building owners/operators are responsible for

Currently, 23 private haulers are licensed to provide commercial trash and recycling collection in Fairfax County.

providing refuse and recyclables collection containers at their buildings; most commercial buildings use a series of dumpsters that are emptied using front-end trucks. Currently (2004), 23 private haulers are licensed to provide commercial trash and recycling collection in Fairfax County. Businesses pay their collectors a fee for collection and recycling services.

Businesses in Fairfax County that employ over 200 people or produce more than 100 tons of solid waste annually must recycle their “principal recyclable material.” For most county businesses, the principal recyclable material is office paper. The county also requires commercial building owners/operators and all collectors of recyclable materials to provide a recycling system for their tenants. Commercial building owners/operators typically contract with haulers for the collection of recyclables from dumpsters at the business location.

Smaller businesses in the county can take office paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, newspaper, or any other acceptable recyclable material to a local recycling drop-off center (such as the I-66 Transfer Station or I-95 Landfill Complex) or arrange for commercial collection.

Fairfax County’s CAR Program collects refuse from county agencies.

County Agency Collection

Fairfax County’s CAR program is responsible for the collection of refuse from county agencies and a small number of associated organizations. Revenue is derived from billings to county agencies on the basis of cubic yard capacity of the containers assigned to individual agencies. The cost per cubic yard is formula-driven and based on fiscal year operating requirements.

Issues Concerning Residential Collection Currently Provided by Private Companies

Customer Service

Over the past few years, county staff have received increasing numbers of complaints concerning customer service provided by private collection companies in the county. Complaints include:

- frequent missed collections of waste or recyclables
- long waits on the customer service line to report missed collections or talk with a customer service representative
- unjustified rate increases (i.e., rate increases significantly above the increases in tip fees paid at disposal facilities)
- extra charge for special collections
- no brush collection or special pickups following weather events

Typically private companies are not equipped to handle emergency services resulting from weather events such as hurricanes or tornadoes. During the recent hurricane (September 2003), county staff received countless calls from customers who could not get their collection company to dispose of the significant amounts of brush generated by the storm.

Air emissions

Fairfax County's current residential collection system is inefficient in that it allows multiple companies to serve each neighborhood. As a result, many different collection trucks travel each street daily.

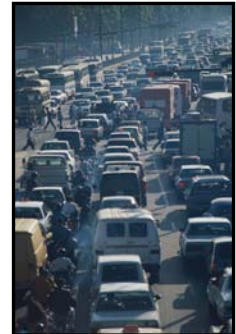
In March 2003, EPA reclassified the Washington, DC area as a severe non-attainment area for ground-level ozone. Fairfax County solid waste collection operations may be adding to the ozone problem in the area by:

- multiple collection trucks serving neighborhoods daily
- high collection frequency such as twice weekly of MSW, once for yard waste and once for recyclables—all on different days
- collection vehicles not using special fuels, filters or less-polluting collection vehicles

Traffic

Similarly, with multiple collection vehicles on neighborhood streets daily, traffic impacts of Fairfax County solid waste collection operations include:

- increased traffic congestion
- safety concerns for children awaiting and departing buses
- unsafe practices by truck drivers such as speeding or zigzagging to collect on both sides of the street in order to meet high daily collection standards (some companies require about 1,200 households to be collected on a route)



Fairfax County projects annual MSW collection volumes (excluding yard waste and special wastes) will increase between 17 and 58 percent from 2004 and 2025, assuming continuation of current waste management practices.

Assessment of Current and Future Collection Needs

Chapter 2 of this SWMP presents the projected quantities of MSW generated, recycled, and disposed in Fairfax County over the SWMP planning period. The county developed four alternative waste projections to address the probable range in the future generation rates. A detailed discussion of the development of MSW waste projections is provided in Appendix C.

Collection of MSW includes both recyclable materials and waste destined for disposal. Table 6-9 and Figure 6-3 show the projected quantities of